

## REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 and 7-43 are pending in the present application. Claims 5 and 6 have been canceled by the present amendment. Claims 12-43 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as being drawn to a non-elected invention.


The present amendment amends the claims to more clearly set forth that the method relates to assembling a photofinishing order from a customer, wherein the order includes at least one photofinishing, retail or general component. The method comprises associating a customer order identification with the photofinishing order; automatically dispensing at least one first type of photofinishing component onto a first conveyor based on the customer order identification so as to form an order group on the first conveyor which includes the at least one first type of photofinishing component; conveying the order group from the first conveyor to a second conveyor; automatically dispensing at least one second type of retail or general component into the order group on the second conveyor to create an assembled product group; and shrink wrapping the assembled product group.

The applied reference to Beggiao does not disclose the concept of shrink wrapping an assembled product group as required by the claims of the present invention. The reference to Van de Ven et al. which was cited to show a shrink wrapping feature is not believed to correct the deficiencies of Beggiao with respect to the claimed invention. More specifically, the reference to Van de Ven et al. does not provide for a shrink wrapping feature where a first type of photofinishing component and a second type of retail or general component that make up part of a photofinishing order are conveyed and assembled into an order group to form an assembled product group; and thereafter, the assembled product group is shrink wrapped. Van de Ven et al. relates to an apparatus wherein a laser printer prints documents that are stacked into a package. These documents are sheets that are normally of the same size and orientation, and are stacked into a package that can thereafter be conveyed to shrink wrap equipment or manual equipment that applies a band or strap to the stacked sheets. Therefore, the documents that are wrapped in Van de Ven et al. are known and are the same type of products, i.e. paper sheets. The documents in Van de Ven et al. are not photographic based type products that include a first type of photofinishing component and a second type of retail or general component of a customer photofinishing order. The components of the present invention can be unknown distinct types of products of different shapes as described in the present invention.

Accordingly, the references to Beggiao and Van de Ven et al., whether considered individually or in combination, are not believed to anticipate or make obvious the specific features required by each of claims 1-4 and 7-11.

In view of the foregoing comments, it is submitted that the inventions defined by each of claims 1-4 and 7-11 are patentable, and an early and favorable action on the merits is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David A. Novais", written in black ink.

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